

Recent laws that may affect you:

Child-Passenger-Restraint Requirements Effective now, children under the age of 13 must ride in the back seat where it is practical to do so. Children under the age of 8 who are less than 4 feet 9 inches tall must be properly secured in an appropriate child-restraint system.

Secure Your Load Effective now, you must secure any load you transport in your vehicle or trailer before driving on public roadways in Washington State. Secure both the load and any items used to cover or secure it so they won't become loose and hazardous to other road users.

Use of Communications Devices Effective January 1, 2008, you cannot use an electronic-wireless-communications device to send, read, or write a text message while operating a motor vehicle unless you are:

- reporting illegal activity or summoning medical or emergency help.
- preventing injury to a person or property.
- operating an authorized emergency vehicle.
- relaying information between a transit or for-hire operator and that operator's dispatcher using a device that is permanently affixed to the vehicle.
- doing so using a global-positioning or navigation system that is permanently affixed to the vehicle.

Effective July 1, 2008, you cannot hold a wireless-communications device to your ear while operating a motor vehicle unless you are:

- reporting illegal activity or summoning medical or other emergency help.
- preventing injury to a person or property.
- operating an authorized emergency vehicle.
- operating a tow truck responding to a disabled vehicle.
- operating an amateur radio station under a Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license.
- using a hearing aid.

Move Over Effective now, when you approach a tow truck or roadside assistance, emergency, or police vehicle that is stopped and using flashing lights or sirens, proceed cautiously and:

- on highways with four or more lanes, two of which are meant for traffic moving in the same direction, change lanes or move away from the stopped vehicle if it is safe to do so.
- on highways with less than four lanes, slow down, and pass to the left if it is safe to do so.

No Endorsement Effective now, if you operate any vehicle without having the required endorsement, the vehicle may be impounded.

Ferry-Waiting Rules Effective now, while waiting to board a Washington State Ferry (except the Keller Ferry), you cannot block a residential driveway or move in front of another vehicle already in a queue waiting to board unless a state ferry employee directs you.

Driving-Record Fee Increase Effective now, the fee for a driving record is \$10.

*The Department of Licensing has a policy of providing equal access to its services.
If you need special accommodation, please call (360) 902-3900 or TTY (360) 664-0166.*